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## ABSTRACT

## DATABASE ANNOTATION AND RETRIEVAL

A system is provided for determining a sequence of subword units representative of at least two words output by a word recognition unit in response to an input word to be recognised. In a preferred embodiment, the word alternatives output by the recognition unit are converted into sequences of phonemes. An optimum alignment between these sequences is then determined using a dynamic programming alignment technique. The sequence of phonemes representative of the input sequences is then determined using this optimum alignment.